

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 153

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Tom Little upon receiving the Mended Heart of the Year award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Tom Little, who is an esteemed resident of Cookeville and was recently named the winner of the Mended Heart of the Year award, which he graciously accepted at the Mended Hearts national convention; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Little was recognized for his dedication to the Cookeville chapter of Mended Hearts, which he serves as president; and

WHEREAS, the national Mended Hearts Association was founded in 1958 and offers membership to anyone who has experienced heart disease or heart surgery; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville chapter, chapter 127, was chartered in 1997 with twenty-five members; and

WHEREAS, following his open-heart surgery, Tom Little first learned about Mended Hearts when he went to the Cardiac Rehabilitation Center at Cookeville Regional Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Cookeville chapter remained at less than thirty members for around five years until Mr. Little became president and, during his tenure, the membership has risen to 175 members, with more than fifty members present at each meeting; and

WHEREAS, under Tom Little's leadership, some of the chapter's greatest accomplishments took place in 2007, including the care and comfort of 326 patients at

Cookeville Regional, fourteen Heart Health Fairs, a six-page monthly newsletter, six fundraisers with grants and gifts from various individuals and businesses, donations of \$500 to the Cancer Center, \$500 to the Martin Coffey Memorial, and \$200 to the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, 2007 also saw the chapter participating in 1,764 hours of visiting, 1,921 family visits, and 247 phone calls; assisting of rehab patients with fuel cards, helping with co-pay, and working with insurance companies; placing six automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in churches at a total cost of \$7,800; and placing eight AEDs and mannequins in high schools, as well as the Women's Center at Cookeville Regional, at a total cost of \$14,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the members of the Mended Hearts Cookeville chapter also graciously donated their time and energies to assisting with AED and CPR training for 157 area church members, and AED and CPR training for area high school sophomores with a refresher course for seniors; and

WHEREAS, the organization continues to grow, with eight newly-accredited visit volunteers and twenty-six retrained accredited visit volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the greater Cookeville community and the State of Tennessee are undoubtedly better places to live because of the life and service of Tom Little; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Mr. Little who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Tom Little for his many contributions to the good people of Tennessee, his unwavering commitment to others, and his astute leadership in Cookeville; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Tom Little upon receiving the Mended Heart of the Year award, commend his outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit, and

extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and much happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.